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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE:

SUBJECT SED Attitude Towards Dismantlings and Land Reform in the West

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SUPPLEMENT

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ORIGIN

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1. At a recent meeting of the Party Executive Committee Walter Ulbricht stated that the SED is about to demand a check of all business directors and persons holding responsible positions in the Central Administrations for the implementation of SMA Order No. 234. Those who are not members of the SED will be subjected to particularly thorough investigation. In connection with this, the Neues Deutschland has launched attacks upon certain leaders of eastern zonal industry, and protests have been received by the editors. The newspaper, however, was acting upon orders of the party and is assured of its full support.
2. During the course of the same meeting, party policy to be adopted in regard to the dismantlings in the West was considered. Otto Grotewohl expressed the suspicion that the proposed dismantlings will never occur and that the whole scheme will be employed eventually as a weapon against Russia. For this reason, the party leaders feel that they must advance cautiously in so far as propaganda is concerned. If the SPD submits a protest on the subject it will be supported by the SED press and officialdom; otherwise, a general silence is to be maintained. The main goals of the Communist Party in the West will be the expropriation of properties belonging to former Nazis and war criminals and the realization of the promised land reform.
3. At a press conference which took place immediately after the meeting of the Executive Committee, it was decided that any letters received by the Neues Deutschland containing complaints or charges of violation of SMA Order No. 234 will be copied in triplicate and forwarded to the SED, to Ulbricht, and to the SMA. Letters denouncing corruption cases are to be sent to the SED economic division (Comrade Kling) and to Major Lenikovsky.
4. Thirty thousand additional copies of the Neues Deutschland are being shipped to the western zones to replace the Niedersächsische Volksstimme, which was recently banned [redacted]. Furthermore, certain of the editors of the Niedersächsische Volksstimme have been appointed to the staff of the Neues Deutschland.

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CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

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